(ii) Preparation of Post harvest manuals in regional languages to educate farmers/growers;

(iii) Promotion of pack house concept in the production areas including cold chain linkage right from farm to the consumer; and

(iv) Vapour heat treatment to control flies in horticulture produce on pilots scale.

The Department of Food Processing Industries, under the Ministry of Agriculture, is implementing the following programmes :

(i) Establishment of Post-harvest infrastructure and cold chain facilities for food processing and integrated projects of mushrooms, hops, gherkins and babycorn.

(ii) Establishment of food processing industrial estate (Food parks).

(iii) Setting up/expansion/modernization of food processing units.

(iv) Development/modernization of meat processing.

(v) Setting up of Food Processing & Training Centres (FPTCs).

(vi) Strenghthening of backward linkages to agro-raw material sources.

Use of Parthenium by Florists

4313. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Parthenium, being used by florists in preparation of bouquet on large scale, causes a variety of allergies and skin diseases;

(b) if so, the steps taken to stop use of white florists of Parthenium by the florists; and

(c) the steps taken to initiate a country-wide deweeding programme to get rid of it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Sir, there are no reports about the use of

Parthenium by florists in preparation of a bouquet. However, Parthenium is known to cause allergy to some people.

(c) Central Government have advised States/UTs to undertake the following steps to get rid of Parthenium :

(i) Physical removal of the weed.

(ii) Blanket spray of Paraquat and Diuron or Atrazine as pre-emergence spray to check the emergence of Parthenium.

(iii) Foliar spray of 15% common salt or 2, 4-D on young plants and Paraquat on older plants.

Eradication of Foot and Mouth Diseases among the Cattle

4314. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what measures have been taken to control and eradicate the foot and mouth diseases to the cattle in the country; and

(b) the details of amount allocated and released so far to Karnataka for control and eradication of foot and mouth disease, during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Foot and Mouth Disease is endemic in India and the State Governments are responsible to control the disease. Government of India supplements the efforts of State Governments by way of providing central assistance under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely "Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases". Under the Foot and Mouth Disease Control component of the scheme there is a provision to vaccinate susceptible high yielding indigenous, exotic and cross breed cattle belonging to weaker section of the society. Cost of the vaccine is shared between Central Government, State Government and the beneficiary on 25-25-50 basis. In case of Union Territories the cost of the vaccine is shared between Central Government and the beneficiary on 50:50 basis.

(b) An amount of Rs. 65.00 lakhs and Rs. 27.83 lakhs have been released to the Government of Karnataka for control of Foot and Mouth Disease during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, respectively. During 2001-2002 against an allocation of Rs. 40.00 lakhs Rs. 32.00 lakhs has been released so far.